

3/14/2014

Dear Co-chairs Terry Gerratana, Susan Johnson and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee. I am here today to testify and ask that you do everything possible to move forward language to modernize the Naturopathic Medical Practice Act so that it may be put into a bill format and presented to the CT legislature for a vote. The current Naturopathic Practice Act is 90 years old and has not kept pace with the advances that have been made over the decades. Expanding prescriptive authority and defining certain office procedures for Naturopathic Physicians will greatly improve our ability to deliver primary care services to our patients. This in turn will reduce redundancy in care and reduce costs to patients and insurance companies alike (including CT CMA Husky and Medicaid programs). It would also allow the University of Bridgeport Naturopathic Medicine program to teach students without walk arounds as they are taught in other Naturopathic medical schools to the full extent that other jurisdictions are licensed.

P I have been licensed as an ND in CT for the past 30 years and also licensed as an RN in CT since 1972, with a background in critical care nursing. I think it would be in the best interest of patients to be able, say to be treated by me for acute Lyme disease with antibiotics and the natural remedies that ND's commonly use. I would also like the option of suturing a minor wound in a patient and utilizing my skills in minor surgery. Primary care physicians are coming into short supply, and Naturopathic Physicians have the potential to play a significant role in this area. States which have expanded prescriptive authority to Naturopaths..ie. New Hampshire and Vermont demonstrate an exceedingly good safety record on close scrutiny. Thank you in advance for your efforts in promoting a modernization of the Naturopathic Practice Act.

Robert M. Murphy RN, N.D.